

APPENDIX II

Report by the President

The following is a summary statement of President Caputo's Report to the Senate:

He said: "As you came in we were distributing a flyer, which we will be sending to a variety of groups and individuals to make sure that they understand where Hunter is ranked and how Hunter has been ranked by both *The Princeton Review* and *U. S. News & World Report*. This is certainly an exhilarating and an exhausting time to be on the Hunter campus. As do all academic communities we seem to push too much into the end of the semester. In any case, my report is a little lengthy today because there are a number of important topics that I want to touch on.

I would like to begin by congratulating several members of the Hunter College community. Professor Jeannine Plottel, Romance Languages, has been awarded the Palmes Academique awarded by the French Embassy for her lifelong contributions to the study of French society. So, we congratulate her. Many of you know Maria Terrone in Institutional Advancement. In addition to her many talents in public relations she is also a poet. In this case not only a poet, but also a published poet and an award-winning poet. Maria has received the Allen Tate Memorial Award in Poetry in a competition sponsored by Wind Magazine. So, congratulations to her.

Several Updates

First, in the past week I have met with the Reorganization Advisory Committee. This is the committee that I put together a year ago and asked for suggestions from members about the various aspects of reorganization. I am very pleased to tell you that the committee reported no major issues and, in fact, had general praise for the reorganization effort to date. I am very pleased with that. I will continue to meet with that committee for the foreseeable future.

Second, to my knowledge there has been no progress on the search for a new chancellor. I believe that this is likely to wait until there is some resolution to the current divisiveness on the Board of Trustees.

Third, there is no word yet on what the Governor's Executive Budget is going to be like. If you recall, during the two years with major budget cuts the budget was announced relatively early. So, we have reason to believe, and given the State's economy we have hopes, that the executive branch will not be in a cutting mood, and perhaps we will be surprised with an increase. We should know more in January. Remember that this is the same governor who took great delight in talking about the excess revenues from MTA and how they would be spent. Hopefully, there will be some recognition of higher education.

Fourth, I am pleased to tell you that the revisions of the Governance Charter for Hunter College have been approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting a week or so ago. I will be appointing a representative from the HEO/CLT groups in the very near future. I would like to thank the Senate and Dean Linda Chin for their cooperation with the governance change process. I know that there was a series of prolonged discussions, but we got things resolved. It is a credit to us that when we approach the Board there is agreement as to what the final resolution should be. So, thank you everybody.

Fifth, the American Association for State Colleges and Universities, which is the primary organization that we belong to, met last week. I regret to report to you that it appears that we at CUNY and also at SUNY are in a minority, a minority that we did not want to be in. We appear to be one of the few states in the country that continue to fall behind in terms of higher education expenditures. In most of the other states we are talking about significant increases and the opportunity to develop new programs. That is unfortunate. It was a useful meeting, and I am pleased to tell you that our academic programs continue to compare very well. I am chairing an AASCU commission on urban and metropolitan universities for the next year. That group is going to focus on urban higher education, teacher preparation, and also a variety of HUD programs that are up for renewal and discussion, including the community partnership program which we have been fortunate to be part of in years past.

Update on Several Campus Projects

You may have noticed that the windows are being washed. We hope to have that done by early January if the weather stays warm. Secondly, the West Building entrance project is scheduled to start next week. It will be disruptive. You will have to use the entrance on the East Side of the West Building by the Bookstore.

Appendix II (continued):

Third, I am pleased to tell you that we have received final approval regarding the boiler/chiller project in the North Building. This is a major project that will provide us with appropriate heating and cooling when done, and should eliminate the concern about air-conditioning that we had during the last two summers. We are pleased that it is going ahead.

There are two items of concern that I mention with some reluctance. Since the last meeting there have been several efforts to schedule meetings with student government leaders. None have occurred. I hope that this will change next semester. I also note with special interest the resolution before you today to create a Senate Select Committee on Student Life, Advising, and Retention. Anyone here knows that I have always favored any program or effort which benefits our students, and I look forward to working with this committee. I hope you will in fact end up establishing it. But I do feel the need to point out that the first time anyone at the vice presidential level or higher knew anything about the proposal was in fact when we received copies of the agenda. I think the proposal might have been strengthened if we had had a chance to discuss it. My only point in raising this is that I hope that there will be more consultation on such matters in the future.

Several exciting things are happening. I want to show you something. This is Hunter's equivalent of the Oscar. It is the Maurice Kanbar Award. The award was given back in October as part of the First National Student Film and New Media Competition held at Hunter. I especially want to congratulate Professor Stuart Ewen and also Cecile Insdorf for their hard work. We are hopeful that we will raise the money to continue it next year.

If you recall, last February in the State-of-the-College Address I had indicated that I would be seeking funds to endow the Hunter College Public Leadership Program, a program where we would bring outstanding public officials to campus for an extended period of time. I am pleased to announce that a donor has come forward and has agreed to fund it in the six-figure range for the first two years. You will hear more about it. We will put together a Steering Committee of faculty and staff. The program, hopefully, will begin in the fall of next year. It should be a significant opportunity for our students as well as the general community to have a distinguished public leader in residence for more than just a speech, and hopefully for three to five days. So, look for more details about this in the months ahead.

As a result of efforts by Vice President Gizis and Chief Librarian Louise Sherby, I am also very pleased to announce progress in an area, which traditionally has been one of the most cited concerns by students, the question of extended library hours. Beginning with the Spring semester and for one year we have been able to find the funds to keep the Library open longer during the week. It will be open from 8:30 AM to 11:00 PM during the Monday through Thursday period, and from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Fridays. We have also found money to extend the hours on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 8:00 PM both of those days. Saturday and Sunday hours become effective March 7th, and they will be in effect thereafter during the regular semester. If student use justifies it we will make every effort to find funds to keep the Library open during these hours in the future.

Two final announcements. I want to ask for your support and cooperation for a very important function that is going on right now, and that is the CUNY Campaign. The contributions assist many who need such help, and it is important that Hunter continue to be a leader in the CUNY Campaign. Second, a reminder that the Hunter holiday party is December 11th. Vice President Tyburczy has promised me that it will be bigger and better than all parties in the past. So, if you have a chance to join us that would be very good. I would also like to thank all of you who have been kind enough to extend invitations to me for receptions, retirement parties, and other things that have been scheduled. I will try to get to as many as possible and I hope to see many of you at those in the upcoming weeks.

In closing I would like to remind you of a very important bond that we all have and that is our bond to our students and to the knowledge we create and communicate. In the final analysis Hunter will be measured not by our public relations pronouncements of greatness or even institutional recognition, but rather by the lasting love of knowledge and learning we impart to our students. So, I salute each and everyone of you who in all that you do to help make Hunter College the great institution it is, and who are contributing to make it an even greater institution. You along with our students are the true heroes of this and every other institution of higher education. You have my thanks, my admiration, and my utmost respect for the outstanding job that you do."